GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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Photograph by Richard H. Stewart

A STAR-SPANGLED MARKER TAKES ITS PLACE IN THE SUN

Decoration Day, May 30, in the United States is an occasion for waving flags over the graves of Civil War dead. Members of the National Geographic Society-U. S. Navy Eclipse Expedition observed May 30, 1937, on Canton Island in mid-Pacific by unveiling a marker commemorating the scientists' stay on the island. At the left stands Dr. S. A. Mitchell, chief scientist of the expedition, and at the right Capt. J. F. Hellweg, Navy leader. The concrete block bears two porcelain-enameled steel flags of the United States and two bronze seals of the National Geographic Society (Bulletin No. 1).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

Pacific Isles, Canton and Enderbury, Become Wards of Uncle Sam

AN EXECUTIVE Order of the President of the United States, on March 3, assigned Canton and Enderbury Islands, of the mid-Pacific, to the Department of Interior for government supervision. Lacking colonial administrative offices, such as those of the vast British Empire, the United States governs its territorial fringes mainly through the Division of Territories and Insular Possessions in the Department of the Interior. Under the same supervision are the important Territories of Hawaii and Alaska, and also the island of Puerto Rico.

The process of claiming islands for the United States by an Executive Order that designates how they shall be governed has been going on more or less since 1856, when Congress passed the Guano Islands Act. This maintained the right of the U. S. Government to take peaceable possession of islands which its citizens have discovered or claimed for use in the then flourishing guano fertilizer industry.

Ten Other Islands Claimed in Past Twenty Years

Ten islands have been officially claimed in this fashion, previous to Canton and Enderbury, within the past twenty years. Jarvis, Baker, and Howland Islands, in 1936, were placed under the administration of the Department of Interior. Two years before that, Wake Island, Kingman Reef, and Johnston and Sand Islands were assigned to the Navy Department. The Department of Agriculture also maintains a watch over the latter two, as bird sanctuaries.

Three island dots in the Caribbean were turned over to the Department of Commerce in 1919 to be used as lighthouse sites—Roncador Cay, Serrana Bank, and Quita Sueño Bank. When Colombia pressed a counter claim, an agreement was reached between the governments whereby the Americans maintained lighthouses and the Colombians were free to continue their fishing from the islands.

Assertion of America's claim to Canton and Enderbury Islands, promptly disputed by Great Britain, was based on the fact that the islands have been known to American seamen for well over a century, appearing on their charts as early as 1828.

Canton Island, for instance, owes its name to the wreck, in 1854, of an American whaling vessel, the *Canton*, from New Bedford, Massachusetts. In 1872, Commander Meade, of the *U.S.S. Narragansett's* Pacific surveying party, reported the position of the island and officially named it after the *Canton*.

Canton and Enderbury Islands were visited and explored 10 months ago by the National Geographic Society-U. S. Navy Expedition, which observed the total eclipse of the sun on June 8, 1937. Canton was the expedition's base. A landing also was made on Enderbury.

The two islands were selected by the expedition because they were among the few points of land within the entire 8,800-mile path of the eclipse shadow across the Pacific. Canton was chosen as the observation point because it afforded a better anchorage for the expedition's ship, the Navy seaplane tender *Avocet*, and better landing facilities for the expedition's equipment.

Canton Could Be Base for Land- or Seaplanes

The two islands, of coral formation, are part of the Phoenix Group of eight islands, very nearly in the center of the Pacific Ocean and only a short distance south of the Equator. Canton Island is about 32 miles west-northwest of Enderbury.

As a result of observations in preparation for study of the eclipse, the expedition found that Canton is about 1 1/3 miles farther west and 6/10 miles farther north than the position in which it had been recorded on maps. The corrected position is 171 degrees, 43 minutes, 10 seconds West Longitude, and 2 degrees, 49 minutes South Latitude (map, next page).

Canton Island is shaped like a hollow pork chop. A narrow strip of land from 50 to 600 yards wide and 27 miles in circumference encloses a quiet lagoon about nine miles long and three miles across. Although the lagoon is obstructed here and there with patches of coral, it would make an almost ideal landing place for seaplanes. There is one entrance to this lagoon from the sea, on the west side. At no point is the island more than 10 feet above high tide. Runways could be easily cleared for land planes.

A few coconut palms are growing on Canton. Sea birds nest on it, and there are also many rats and hermit crabs. The wreck of a ship on the shore supplied timbers for a wharf built by the expedition on the lagoon beach. There is no drinking water on either island. The expedition members used water distilled from sea water on board the *Avocet*. They reported the

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Photograph by Richard H. Stewart

A DESERTED VILLAGE AND A VERY BUSY BIRD COLONY GREETED LAST YEAR'S EXPLORERS ON ENDERBURY ISLAND

A wrecked ship and abandoned houses crumbling into ruin (left background) were silent proof that men had reached Enderbury before, and had even lived there during the working of guano deposits before synthetic fertilizers cut down the demand for such natural fertilizers. When members of the National Geographic Society-U. S. Navy Expedition explored the island in May, 1937, they found birds in undisputed possession. The surface of rough coral rock was dotted with scrubby growth, and lined with ridges of loose rock piles, such as that climbed by Jerry, the mascot (right) (Bulletin No. 1).

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Southern California Flood Washes Famous Place Names into News

"SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA is a desert—with the water turned on," many "native sons" describe their homeland. By "water turned on" they ordinarily mean irrigation, with huge dams, long aqueducts, winding sluiceways and rippling ditches. In well-regulated quantities the life-giving fluid flows down from man-made reservoirs to make orchards bear, flowers bloom, and trees and grass grow.

What happens when Mother Nature begins to dump water in enormous unwanted quantities from the sky was shown early in March when desert mountainsides, canyons, and dry arroyos were deluged with more than 11 inches of rain in five days. River beds, spillways, and sewer systems accustomed to taking care of more than a quarter-inch of rain on only 16 days a year could not handle the flood.

Water overflowed everywhere. Small streams became mad, chocolate-colored serpents on the rampage. Bridges, houses, highways, and even large buildings were swept to destruction with terrifying suddenness. For hours the great city of Los Angeles and 100 nearby communities, because of the failure of many telegraph and telephone wires, were almost cut off from the rest of the world.

Rose Bowl Almost a Fish Bowl

When normal radio and telegraphic service was restored, however, scores of familiar place names filled the news. California's record flood washed into the headlines many communities and institutions whose fame has spread far beyond the boundaries of the Golden State.

Of primary interest to scientists was the report that the noted Mount Wilson Observatory was isolated by flood waters. Roads leading to the mountain were closed, but the twin domes on the summit, housing the 100-inch mirror of the giant Hooker telescope and the 60-inch instrument, were not damaged.

From Pasadena came dispatches that worried sports fans. The famous Rose Bowl, scene of some of the biggest football games in the United States, filled rapidly with water from the Arroyo Seco (Spanish for "dry ravine"). When the flood rose to the fourth row of seats, however, the torrent was suddenly diverted, and the Bowl was saved from undermining and collapse.

Hollywood, "film capital of the world," had plenty of water, but only a few of the studios in its vicinity suffered any real damage. One company, on the banks of the Los Angeles River, reported that its principal loss was a rubber whale, which was used as a prop in a recent picture. It was last seen headed for the Pacific.

Desert "Flooded" at Palm Springs

Venice, the "Coney Island of the Pacific," stood directly in the path of heavy overflows rushing down to the sea. Scores of homes were undermined, and, for a time, its water-filled streets resembled the canals of its Italian namesake. Farther up the coast, at Malibu Beach, where many movie stars have seaside homes or beach cottages, the highway was blocked by washouts.

Even in the midst of the desert, at the resort of Palm Springs, the unprecedented rainfall filled the streets with water up to the curbs.

The Spanish mission cities of San Juan Capistrano, San Fernando, San Gabriel, and Santa Barbara also came into the news, but chiefly because of damage to modern highways, bridges, or homes. The stout old missions weathered the downpour as they have many another blow in nearly a century and a half.

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temperature in May and June hovered between 80 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit, but steady trade winds helped to ease discomfort.

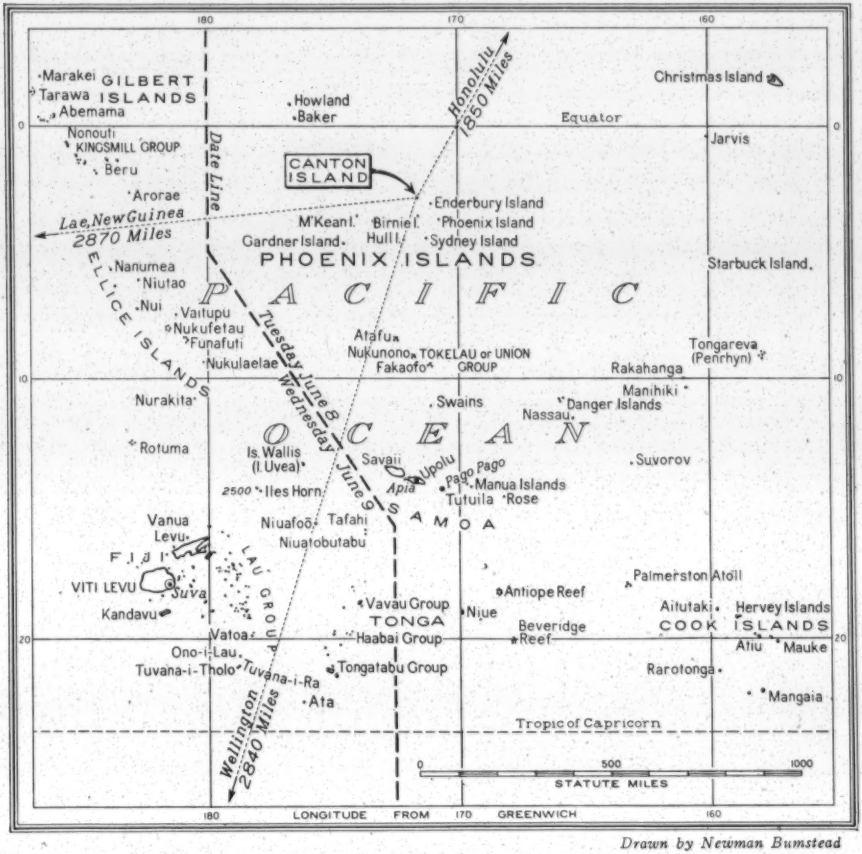
On Memorial Day, 1937, the expedition dedicated a concrete monument to commemorate its stay on Canton Island (illustration, cover). An eclipse expedition from New Zealand came to Canton after the arrival of the American party and camped near-by.

Enderbury Island is oblong in shape, three and a half miles long and one and a half miles wide. A coral reef surrounds it, extending out from 100 to 200 yards offshore, making landing difficult. It has no central lagoon, is covered with loose coral rock and therefore would be difficult to adapt as an air base (illustration, inside cover). A few palm trees grow on it. The highest point of Enderbury Island is about 25 feet above high tide.

Note: Additional photographs and descriptions of Canton and Enderbury Islands will be found in "Nature's Most Dramatic Spectacle" and "Eclipse Adventures on a Desert Isle," *National Geographic Magazine*, September, 1937.

See also the Map of the Pacific Ocean, issued as a supplement to the December, 1936, *National Geographic Magazine*. Separate copies may be obtained from The Society's Washington, D. C., headquarters at 50c (paper) and 75c (linen).

Bulletin No. 1, March 28, 1938.



Drawn by Newman Bumstead

AMERICAN SEAMEN TOLD A GRIM TALE OF SHIPWRECK ON CANTON ISLAND

When Canton was a poorly charted reef, in March, 1854, the sailing ship *Canton* was wrecked there. According to the account of the captain, the crew of thirty-one men, in open boats, made their way northwestward for 49 days, rowing at night, and finally reached Guam. The dotted lines show that Canton is now on a fairly direct route from Hawaii to New Zealand; southwestward variations of course lead to Australia and New Guinea. The northern neighbors, Howland, Baker, and Jarvis, have also been claimed by the United States. The Gilbert Islands belong to Great Britain. Sample dates show how the International Date Line affected the day of the "June 8" eclipse in 1937.

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The Trocadero, Paris Museum, Collects European Folk Art

SOPHISTICATED Paris, city of many arts and countless artists, is making room for a new art exhibit. The simple work of untaught rural artists throughout Europe is being assembled in the *Musée de l'Homme* (Museum of Mankind), housed in the Trocadero Palace.

Carved and painted ox-yokes from Portugal, linens from Sweden painted with illustrations of ancient Northland epics, shoulder brooches from Latvia, Hungarian art of metal and horn shaped by lonely shepherds, furniture painted in Czechoslovakia—all are represented among samples of manual arts which the "world capital of fine arts" can now admire.

The new deal in folk art is taking place in the Trocadero, which itself had a new deal last year when the central part was torn down.

Name Commemorates an Otherwise Forgotten French-Spanish Fight

"Down with the Trocadero!" was for years the battle cry of artistic Parisians, who saw only an eyesore in the huge circular building on the north bank of the Seine. And down it came. To clear the stage for the Paris World's Fair of 1937, the round central "tub" of the structure and its two spikes of towers were leveled, although the two semicircular wings were allowed to remain (illustration, next page).

The Trocadero Palace was built for the World's Fair of 1878, and afterwards sold to the city. A fair built it, and a fair tore it down, neatly rounding out the history of what was essentially a "fair" building, though the caustic dubbed it one of Europe's ugliest.

In its ungainly Oriental way, however, the Trocadero was an imposing structure. The central building, pinched up to a glass peak in the middle and topped with a colossal statue of Fame, was flanked by square minarets half as high as the Washington Monument. A low wing still curves toward the Seine on each side, forming an extensive crescent. In front, a terraced park slopes down to the river, ornamented with cascades splashing into a central basin.

Leveling of the Trocadero gave the 1937 fair an unsurpassed location in the Passy district of Paris, with a clear area stretching across the Seine at the Pont d'Iéna to the Champ de Mars and the Eiffel Tower (illustration, next page). This section of the Seine is also memorable as the scene of some of Robert Fulton's early experiments with the steamboat.

Museum Collections Allowed To Remain

It was from the hill on which it stands that the Trocadero took its exotic name. Here, in August, 1826, a sham battle was staged to commemorate the third anniversary of the fall of the original Trocadero, a fort of Cadiz, which the French captured from the Spanish.

The Trocadero's central building contained a huge hall, Salle des Fêtes, seating 6,000, which was used by the state-supported National Popular Theater and for week-end organ concerts.

The twin crescent wings, which remain unscathed, have shown many famous museum collections. The Museum of Comparative Sculpture, in the northeast wing, consists of casts of medieval and Renaissance statuary arranged to show the development of that branch of French art. The southwest wing houses a collection of the fantastic art of Cambodia in the days of the ancient Kmers.

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Weather Bureau experts, seeking an explanation, report that rainfall is to be expected in southern California at this time of the year, but not in such overwhelming quantities. Air masses, which strayed more than 10 degrees south of their normal courses, made California and the Pacific Northwest swap sun and rainfall.

Geographers also point out that the Los Angeles area was vulnerable to this flood because it is really a huge natural bowl, open on the seaward side. From a semi-circular plain rise the Santa Monica Mountains and the Hollywood Hills. Beyond are the higher Sierra Madre and San Gabriel Mountains. Except where water has been piped in, the enveloping ranges are nearly barren. Rainfall thus gets a running start down their dusty flanks.

In recent years, however, Los Angeles has built several large retaining reservoirs in nearby canyons and dry ravines. These serve not only to check sudden downpours but they also give the water a chance to "dig in." The dry, sandy soil of this part of California absorbs water readily, provided it does not fall in torrents. This ground water raises the water table and provides a natural reservoir that can be tapped in dry months. If the soil of southern California were a compact clay or gumbo, like that of the Mississippi basin, the run-off would be much faster and floods much more destructive.

Note: The flood area of Southern California may be located on the map appearing in "Southern California at Work," November, 1934, *National Geographic Magazine.*

Other photographs and descriptions of this section may be found in "Where Birds and Little Animals Find Haven," August, 1936; "Befriending Nature's Children," February, 1932; and "California, Our Lady of Flowers," June, 1929.

Bulletin No. 2, March 28, 1938.

Photograph by Clifton Adams

TURN THE WATER ON, AND PRESTO!—THE DESERT BECOMES ORCHARD, GARDEN AND FARM

Two symbols of southern California's conquest of arid sand are the shovel and the irrigation ditch. By means of dams rain water is checked in the mountains, where it either sinks into the porous ground to raise the water table, or is carried in ditches or huge pipes to the plains below. While Los Angeles, in an average year, has only 15 inches of rain, nearby mountain ranges receive as much as 50 inches of moisture. Los Angeles' flood control program includes the construction of several additional retaining reservoirs. Contrast the barren mountains in the left background (above) with the orange grove and shade trees.

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Taro, The Elephant-Eared "Polynesian Potato"

HAWAIIAN music and Hawaiian pineapples are familiar features of the American scene already. Now comes another product for which Americans can say to Hawaii, "Mahalo" (thank you). Both a bread and a drink for American appetites are being made from taro, the potatolike tropical vegetable (pronounced tah'ro) which was formerly all Hawaii's favorite food.

Taro bread and beverage powder for a drink were recently sent to the Secretary of the Interior and his Division of Territories and Insular Possessions, through which Hawaii is governed. Taro thus appeared on the menu of the new cafeteria at the Department of the Interior in Washington, D. C., this month.

"Three-Finger" Poi as Thin as Soup

Cooked taro, raw fish, and coconut milk were native delicatessen in pre-missionary days, when the South Sea islands were described as stepping stones to paradise. Plump taro tubers then were dug up, cooked, pounded with a stone pestle into a grayish paste, and devoured with gusto as *poi.*

Native etiquette required that *poi,* perhaps slightly fermented after aging a day or two, should be scooped from the *poi* bowl with the fingers. If thick enough for a mouthful to adhere to one finger, it was "one-finger" *poi*; if thinner, "two-finger *poi.* "Three-finger" *poi* was on the way to soup.

Poi seems exotic as the accompaniment of Hawaiian native banquets of roast piglet or thinly sliced raw fish. It becomes more exotic when one learns that it was planted with prayers to the gods of fertility and pounded to sing-song chants. But it was simply the Polynesian "staff of life," as important to Pacific islanders as rice is to Asiatics. It is the Hawaiian equivalent of the American mother's "Eat your bread and butter, drink your milk, and have some more of this nice spinach."

The elephant-ear, flapping its big green leaves on many an old-fashioned lawn or park flower bed throughout the United States, is a distant decorative cousin of the Polynesian vegetable. Another flowery kinsman is Jack-in-the-Pulpit, whose edible but rarely eaten root gives him his other name, the Indian turnip. In taros cultivated for food, however, the plants seem almost to have forgotten how to flower, concentrating on a bulbous stem, the corm. Since flowers and seeds are rare, most taro grows from the top cut from a corm.

Southern States Produce Dasheen (*De Chine*)

The vegetable lifts its broad leaves to the tropical sun practically around the world. In the Madeira Islands it is called *vermelho,* "red taro." In Egypt, peasants name it *qolqas,* and eat it much as they did in the 1st century A. D., when Pliny described it as a staple food. In China it occurs in the variety called *ong hwa,* or "red flowery taro," sold in American Chinatowns as the "China potato."

One variety, the Penang taro, sent from Canton, was introduced into the United States by Prof. G. Weidman Groff, who last year led an expedition of the National Geographic Society into southwestern China for more new plants.

The food had been known for two or three centuries in the South Atlantic States under the name of "blue tanyah" because the vegetable became a delicate blue-violet shade when cooked. This variety, like many other kinds of taro, has an acrid flavor which "burns your tongue" if tasted raw. Taro recipes always suggest an "antidote" of lemon juice for raw taro.

Seeking a better variety, the U. S. Department of Agriculture made the largest

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Also an ethnographical section shows the varying cultures of different races, with an Indian hut from Tierra del Fuego, marionettes from Java, cyclopean monuments from the Balearic Isles, and other groups from world-wide sources, including a collection of dolls dressed in national costumes.

Disappearance of the Trocadero is another incident of change on a hill where history has justified the Parisian proverb, "Only the temporary endures." Given away by Louis XI in 1450 as part of the old feudal property of Chaillot, the hill has been the site of many structures, all of them torn down to make way for more pretentious plans—a château of Catherine de' Medici, a nunnery, a chapel which gave sanctuary to the hearts of dead Stuarts and the living Louise de la Vallière in flirtatious flights from her amorous king. In 1878 the Trocadero was erected.

The Trocadero was familiar to Americans, who found many homelike features in its neighborhood. Here ends the Avenue du Président-Wilson, and on the northeast begins the Rue Franklin, with the famous seated bronze statue of Benjamin Franklin in the rôle of minister to the court of Louis XVI. Not far away is the site of his residence, where he installed the first lightning rod made in France. Nearby is the Place d'Iéna, with an equestrian statue of George Washington.

Note: See also "Paris in Spring," *National Geographic Magazine*, October, 1936; "Looking Down on Europe," March, 1925; "Scenes from France," (duotone insert), July, 1921; and "Plain Tales from the Trenches," March, 1918.

Bulletin No. 3, March 28, 1938.

Photograph from W. W. Rock

STEEL LACE FRAMES A LONG LAST VIEW OF THE TROCADERO

Postcards and pictures showing the palace of the Trocadero framed under the arches of the Eiffel Tower now have a historical value, for the view has vanished. From the knoblike vestibules on either side of the Trocadero's central "tub" and towers, spread curving wings which were allowed to remain when the parts shown here were demolished in 1937 for the Paris World Fair. The Eiffel Tower, whose mighty base dominates the foreground, is the most famous of the city's fair souvenirs, remaining, like the Trocadero, after a feverish spurt of building for the tourist trade. The steel landmark startled world fair visitors of the preceding century into a realization of steel's structural value, long before steel and concrete skyscrapers became commonplace on the American skyline.

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Sultan of Oman Fêted in the United States

ORIENTAL pomp paraded into the United States at the beginning of this month when the Sultan of Oman arrived for a visit. A Sultan's jeweled turban appeared among the top hats of Washington officials, for the potentate of Oman exchanged official calls with the President of the United States. The official salute of twenty-one guns boomed over the capital. The U. S. Army band, after the traditional four ruffles and a flourish, struck up a strange national anthem.

The usual honors but a special curiosity greeted the Arabian ruler, for sultans are rare in the United States. The title, a Mohammedan one, applies to only one ruler under the American flag—a Zulu Sultan in the Philippines.

"Sultan of Masqat and Oman," full title of the visitor now in the United States, might lead one to believe that the potentate is ruler of two domains. It is equivalent, however, to calling Roosevelt "President of Washington, D. C., and the United States." For Masqat (Muscat) is the capital of Oman on the southeastern corner of Arabia.

From Oman Went Explorers of Africa

At the beginning of the 19th century, Oman was part of a great empire which included most of Arabia, islands in the Persian Gulf, part of southern Persia, a strip of northeast Africa south of Cape Guardafui, and the islands of Socotra and Zanzibar. Arabs from Oman explored the heart of Africa before Livingstone.

Raids by nomadic Arab tribes and intervention by foreign powers have reduced Oman's area. Today, the Sultanate is about twice the size of Ohio, and its only dependency, the port of Gwadar, Baluchistan, lies opposite on the Gulf of Oman.

Oman is, roughly, shaped like a boomerang, forming the southeastern rim of the Arabian peninsula. The interior merges without definite boundaries into the Arabian desert. There, on semi-barren slopes, roving nomads raise camels, sheep, and goats. Oman's coast line is nearly 900 miles long, extending from near Sha'am on the west side of Cape Massandam around to Ras Sakar. If straightened out and placed on a map of the Atlantic seaboard of the United States, the coast line would stretch from Boston Harbor to Cape Hatteras. The coast is barren, with two exceptions. Dhofar, in the south, is a fertile district, dotted with several villages. The Batineh district, stretching from Masqat 150 miles west, is noted for its luxuriant date groves. Some of them extend almost to the ocean.

Sultanate Closely Linked with India

Mountain ranges run parallel to Oman's north coast. Some are 10,000 feet high, occasionally snow-capped. Through deep gorges mountain streams roll to the sea. In the rainy season, the gorges roar; in the dry season many become highways from the coast to the interior.

Most fertile of the upland valleys is Wadi Tyin, which has been called "the Garden of Oman." Twenty-five miles long and situated 3,000 feet above sea level, it is the site of twenty-nine villages and as many bubbling springs as there are days in a year. Each village is shadowed by clusters of date palms. Dates are among Oman's chief exports. Grapes and citrus fruits thrive, and vegetables and grains are carefully cultivated.

Oman's closest link is with India. The Sultan spends much of his time there. Most of the country's imports of rice, coffee, cotton goods, and sugar come from India, and to India are shipped her dates, pomegranates, and dried fish.

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collection in the world of taro bulbs around 1905, and selected for American cultivation the *dasheen* from Trinidad. The name probably comes from the West Indian pronunciation of the French *de Chine,* since the variety was originally "from China." The dasheen most resembles the potato in general quality. It looks like a thin-skinned coconut. When cooked, it smells like corn and tastes like a chestnut. From Florida and Georgia it is shipped north for colonies of Chinese laundrymen and restaurateurs, Japanese importers, Filipino taxi drivers, and Portuguese mill hands. It is prepared much as the potato is, but with more care—boiled, baked, stuffed, Saratoga-chipped, or made into a salad.

American dasheen production supplies northern markets with scarcely one-tenth of the taro in demand, and a year's imports of the tropical potato-substitute amounts to more than two million pounds.

Note: Illustrations and descriptions of the taro and its use in the Territory of Hawaii are to be found in "The Hawaiian Islands," *National Geographic Magazine,* February, 1924.

See also "Florida, The Fountain of Youth," January, 1930; "Into Primeval Papua by Seaplane," September, 1929; "Around the World in the 'Islander'," February, 1928; "The Romance of Science in Polynesia," October, 1925; and "Porto Rico, The Gate of Riches," December, 1924.

Bulletin No. 4, March 28, 1938.

Photograph by Rollo H. Beck

LIKE RICE, TARO CAN GROW EITHER IN OR OUT OF WATER

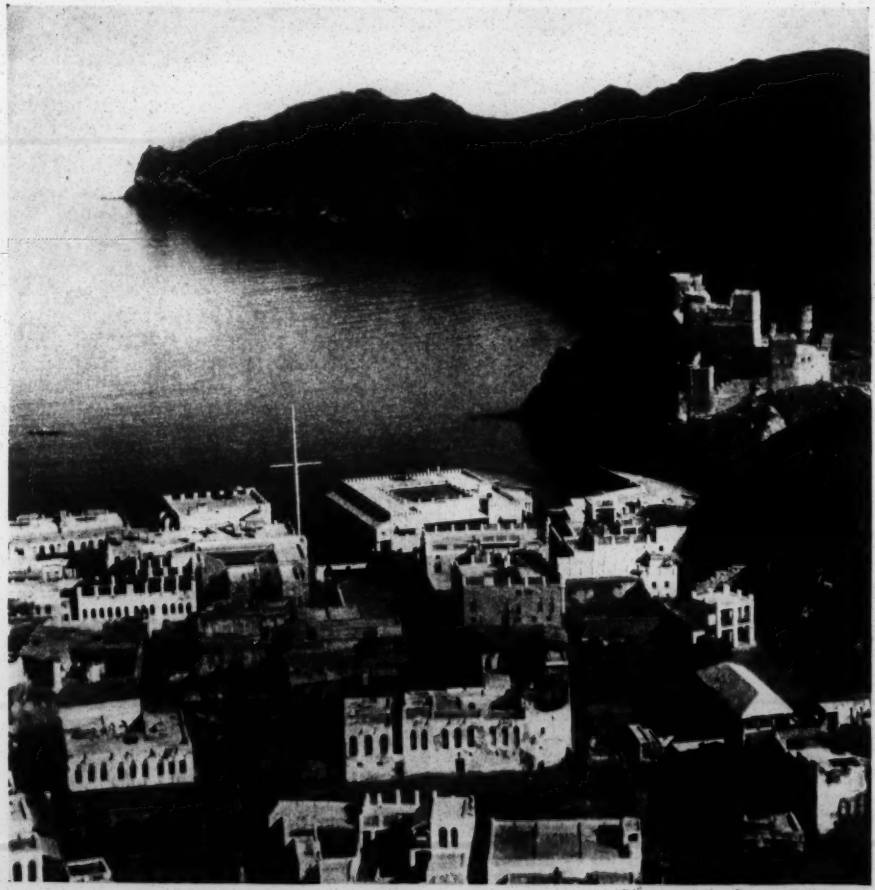
Early Hawaiians had special ritual ceremonies for dry-planting of taro in upland areas and for wet-planting in lowlands where water was more plentiful. Usually it is grown in diked-in patches from an eighth to a quarter of an acre square, arranged in "stair-steps" so that the irrigation water percolates slowly down from one patch to the next. Heart-shaped "elephant ears" of the leaves are a rich velvety green. The plant held by the young native girl of the far Pacific island of Rapa (French Tubuai group) shows that the taro is an underground stem or corm, with leaves above and lighter colored roots growing from it.

Masqat, the capital, is a port city of 4,500 people on the north coast of Oman (illustration, below). Nearly two hundred steamships and three hundred sailing vessels called there in 1935-1936. Regular mail service is maintained between the capital and Bombay, India, and Basra, Iraq. Because Masqat is isolated from the interior by steep mountains, it is losing trade to Matrah, two miles farther north, which is more easily accessible to caravan routes. Matrah has grown to nearly twice the size of Masqat.

A motor road links Masqat with Matrah, Sib, and the fertile Batineh coast north of it. Elsewhere, camels and donkeys are the chief means of transport.

Note: See also "Pearl Fishing in the Red Sea," *National Geographic Magazine*, November, 1935; "The Rise of the New Arab Nation," November, 1919; and "Notes on Oman," January, 1911.

Bulletin No. 5, March 28, 1938.



Photograph by Ewing Galloway

A COVE IN BLEAK COASTAL CLIFFS MAKES MASQAT CAPITAL OF OMAN

The old fort (upper right) is a remnant of Portuguese rule. Flat-roofed battlemented houses show wells of shade in the center, where courtyards offer seclusion and air. The British consulate is marked by a tall flagstaff. So small is the capital town and its cove that ships frequently miss the narrow opening in Oman's steep sea wall of black cliffs. Small Arabian *dhows*, seagoing sail boats, put in to this port stealthily with forbidden cargo of their former flourishing trade—African slaves. Masqat, dreaded as one of the hottest towns in the world, is known throughout the East for its black dates of unusual flavor.